

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) A kit for screening molecules having an anti-prion activity, comprising:
 - a yeast of phenotype;
 - an antibiogram; and
 - a prion curing agent in a sub-effective dose, wherein the yeast has the *adel-14* allele of the *ADE1* gene and an inactivated *ERG6* gene.
2. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 1, wherein the yeast is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.
3. (Withdrawn) The kit of claim 1, wherein the prion curing agent is guanidium chloride.
4. (Withdrawn) A method for screening molecules having anti-prion activity, the method comprising:
 - a. producing *in vitro* a lawn of cells on a medium containing a sub-effective dose of a prion curing agent;
 - b. contacting the cells with a test compound according to the antibiogram method;
 - c. incubating the cells for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 20-25°C; and

d. evaluating the staining of the cell colonies,
wherein the cells comprise yeasts of [*PSI*⁺] phenotype having the *adel-14* allele of
the *ADE1* gene and an inactivated *ERG6* gene.

5. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 4, wherein the yeast is
Saccharomyces cerevisiae.

6. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 4, wherein the curing agent is
guanidium chloride.

7. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 4 further comprising:
e. incubating for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 2-6°C; and/or
f. carrying out a secondary screening test.

8. (Withdrawn) The screening method of claim 7, wherein the secondary
screening test comprises:

constructing a strain of yeast in which the *ADE2* gene is under the control of
the *DAL5* gene promoter;

producing *in vitro* a lawn of cells on a medium containing a sub-effective dose
of a prion curing agent;

contacting the cells with a test compound according to the antibiogram
method;

incubating the cells for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 20-25°C;

evaluating the staining of the cell colonies; and

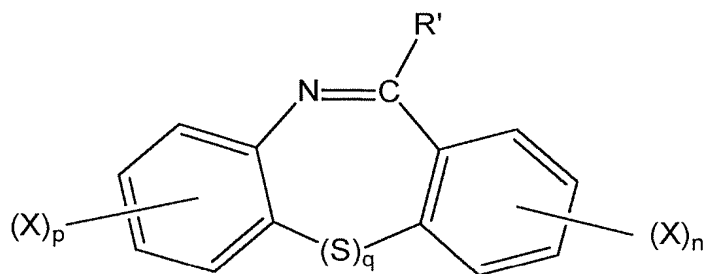
incubating for approximately 2-4 days at approximately 2-6°C.

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method for treating neurodegenerative diseases involving protein aggregates, the method comprising:

administering the compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein R' is an H, NH₂, or NHR² group, wherein R² is an alkyl or alkylaminoalkyl chain with 1 to 10 carbon atoms, branched or unbranched,

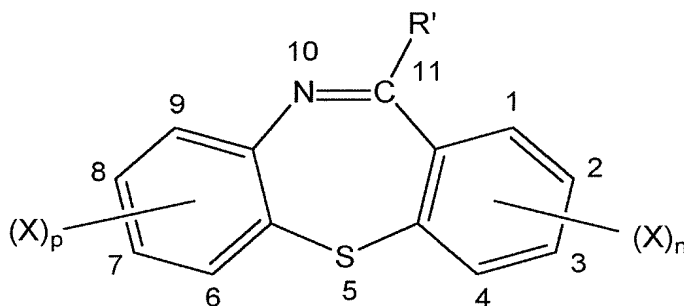
X represents F, Cl, Br, I, CF₃, SCH₃, OCH₃, OH, NO₂, COCH₃, CONH₂, COOH, or COOR³, where R³ is an alkyl group with 1 to 4 carbon atoms,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2,

q is equal to 0 or 1.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for treating neurodegenerative diseases involving protein aggregates, the method comprising:

administering the compound of formula (III)



(III)

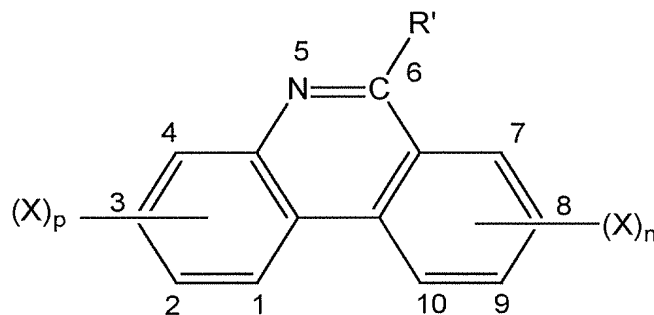
wherein R' represents an H, NH₂, NH-(CH₂)₃-N(CH₃)₂, NH-CH(CH₃)- or (CH₂)₃-N(CH₂-CH₃)₂ group,

X represents F, Cl, or CF₃,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for treating neurodegenerative diseases involving protein aggregates, the method comprising:

administering the compound of formula (II)



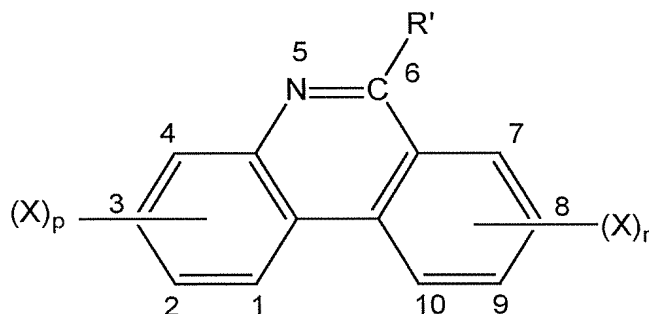
(II)

wherein R' represents an H, NH₂, NH-(CH₂)₃-N(CH₃)₂, NH-CH(CH₃)-(CH₂)₃- or N(CH₂-CH₃)₂ group,

X represents F, Cl, or CF₃,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 13 wherein R' represents an NH₂ group, X represents F, Cl, or CF₃, p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.
15. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 11, wherein the neurodegenerative diseases include: spongiform encephalopathies, Alzheimer's disease, and Huntington's disease.
16. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising: a therapeutically effective quantity of at least one compound of formula (II)



(II)

wherein R' represents an H, NH₂, NH-(CH₂)₃-N(CH₃)₂, NH-CH(CH₃)- or (CH₂)₃-N(CH₂-CH₃)₂ group,

X represents F, Cl, or CF₃,

p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2,

in combination with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle.

17. (Currently amended) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 wherein in the compound of formula (II), R' represents an NH₂ group, X represents F, Cl, or CF₃, p and n, identical or different, are equal to 0, 1 or 2.
18. (New) A method of treatment comprising the administration to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective dose of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 16.

19. (New) The method of claim 18, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered to a patient suffering from a neurodegenerative disease.
20. (New) A method of treatment comprising the administration to a patient in need thereof of a therapeutically effective dose of a pharmaceutical composition of claim 17.
21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the pharmaceutical composition is administered to a patient suffering from a neurodegenerative disease.